



State of Connecticut

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March 12, 2010

Testimony of Senator Toni Boucher
In Support of Senate Bill 335, An Act Concerning Justices of the Peace.

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Senator Kissel, Representative O'Neill, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary, today I testify in support of S.B. 335, An Act Concerning Justices of the Peace, and to urge this committee to pass this bill.

Under current law, we allow marriages in this state to be performed by out-of-state members of the clergy and judges. This allows couples who have a family member or friend who does not live in Connecticut to perform the wedding ceremony, if this individual is licensed or allowed to marry couples in their home state. It makes the ceremony and the wedding day so much more memorable when there is a personal connection between the couple and the officiant.

But our law, as written, contains one glaring exception. While we allow our own justices of the peace to perform weddings, we do not extend the privilege to justices of the peace from other states. With the simple change contained in Senate Bill 335, we can correct this oversight. We can help make a wedding day even more wonderful for a couple if they can now have a relative or friend from out-of-state perform the ceremony here. Think of the memories that passage of this bill can help capture. Thank you for your time and attention.